

### **REMARKS**

The preceding claim amendments and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action issued on August 19, 2008. Claims 2, 3, 8 and 10 have been amended. The details of these claim amendments are explained below. No new matter has been added. Claims 15 and 16 are withdrawn from consideration. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are pending, of which claims 1-14 are under examination.

#### **Restriction Requirement**

In the telephone call made to the Applicants' representative on August 5, 2008, the Office had required Applicants to elect a single invention from the following groups:  
Group I: claims 1-4 drawn to Phosphonium compound and its use  
Group II: claims 15-16 drawn to Wittig reactions.

In response, Applicants confirm the election of Group I, claims 1-14, without traverse. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims 15-16 in a divisional application.

#### **Objection to the Abstract**

In response, Applicants have concurrently filed a replacement of the abstract into which the chemical formulas of the compounds are inserted.

#### **Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112**

The Office has rejected claims 2 and 8 as allegedly indefinite. In particular, the Office objected to the term "anhydride" in claims 2 and 8. While not acquiescing to the propriety of the Office's position, Applicants have obviated the rejection by revising claims 2 and 8 to recite that "the compound of the formula 2 is in anhydrous form."

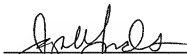
Claims 3 and 10 have been rejected because the reference to the ratio is allegedly unclear. Without acquiescing to the propriety of the Office's position, Applicants have revised claims 3 and 10 to clarify that the recited ratio is for the compound of formula 2 to the compound formula 3 in claim 3, and for the compound of formula 4 with dichlorotriphenylphosphorane, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments of Claims 3 and 10 render the rejection moot.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2, 3, 8 and 10 are respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all outstanding rejections have been overcome, and the instant application is in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully request early allowance of the instant application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,

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